Live telecast of cricket series

399. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that there was some controversy over the BCCI's deal on live telecast of cricket series with Australia commenced on 6th October, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how the issue was resolved over the telecast rights; and

(d) whether Government would frame a long term policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The issue of award of telecast rights of BCCI is *sub-judice* and pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. However, Prasar Bharati entered into an agreement with BCCI on 03.10.2004 securing telecast rights of four test matches between India and Australia and two test matches between India and South Africa and one One Day International between India and Pakistan to be played in India.

Downlinking policy

400. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is giving final touches to the downlinking policy;

(b) whether the proposed policy is going to be mandatory for the television companies; and

(c) how the new proposed policy controls the pornographic channels aired through DTH?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(c) The Channels carried on the DTH Platform are governed by the DTH guidelines issued by the Government on 15.03.2001, which *inter alia* prohibit the DTH licensee from using its facilities for transmitting any objectionable or obscene content, message or communication inconsistent with the